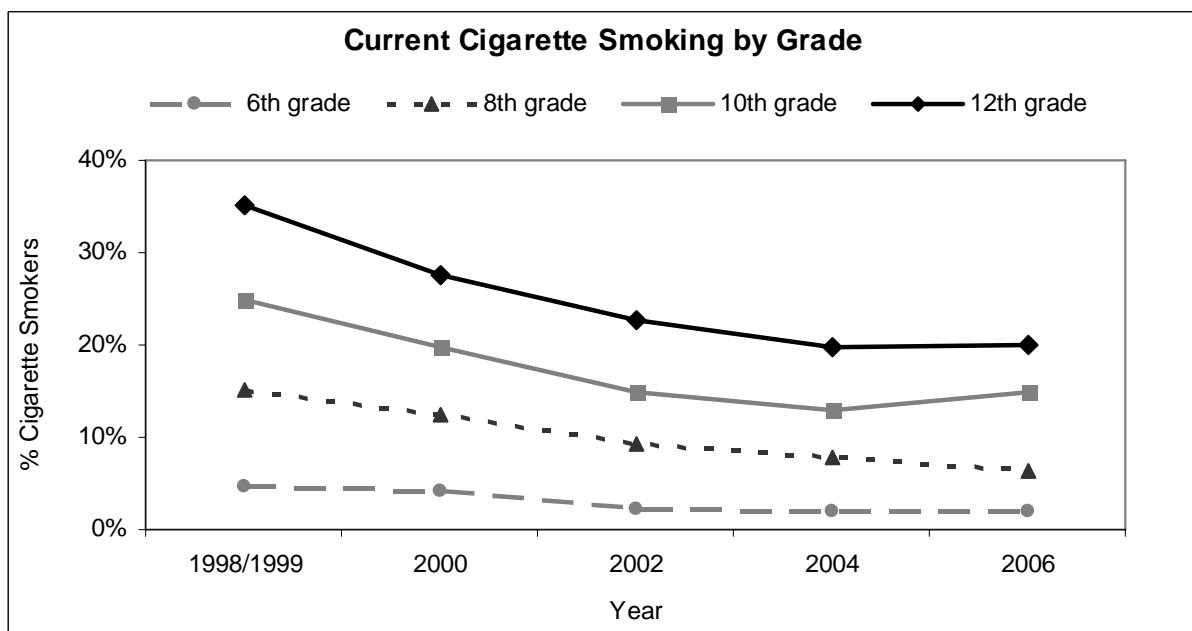


March 2007

2006 Healthy Youth Survey

## Youth Cigarette Smoking Rates

- According to the 2006 Healthy Youth Survey, the rate of smoking among youth has dropped by about half since the launch of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program in 2000.
- Since the start of the program, dramatic reductions in youth smoking have been achieved:
  - 6th-graders smoking is 1.9% (down 60 percent)
  - 8th-graders smoking is 6.4% (down 58 percent)
  - 10<sup>th</sup>-graders smoking is 14.9% (down 40 percent)
  - 12<sup>th</sup>-graders smoking is 20.0% (down 43 percent)
- Statewide there are about 65,000 fewer youth smoking (adjusted to Census 2000 population). This translates to nearly 13,000 kids who will be spared an early death.
- At the beginning of the program, 65 youth took up smoking every day. Now 45 youth are beginning to smoke every day.
- Following a national trend, youth smoking rates in Washington have leveled off since 2004, and smoking among 10<sup>th</sup>-graders has increased.
- The use of alternative tobacco products, such as cigars and flavored cigarettes, is increasing among high school youth.



## Changes in Current Tobacco Use among 10<sup>th</sup> Graders from 2000 to 2006

### Changes by Gender among 10<sup>th</sup> Graders\*

10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Percent of Students				% Change from 2000 to 2006
Gender	2000	2002	2004	2006	
Boys	18%	15%	12%	15%	Down 13%
Girls	22%	15%	14%	14%	Down 34% **

### Changes by Race/Ethnicity among 10<sup>th</sup> Graders\*

10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Percent of Students				% Change from 2000 to 2006
Race/Ethnicity	2000	2002	2004	2006	
American Indian / Alaskan Native	40%	31%	23%	23%	Down 43% **
Asian American / Pacific Islander	15%	12%	10%	9%	Down 37%
Black / African-American	23%	17%	12%	16%	Down 32%
Hispanic/Latino/Latina	21%	11%	11%	13%	Down 39%
White	19%	15%	13%	15%	Down 23% **

### Changes in Alternative Tobacco Product Use among 10<sup>th</sup> Graders\*

10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Percent of Students				% Change from 2000 to 2006
Tobacco Type	2000	2002	2004	2006	
Spit tobacco (chew, dip, snuff)	5%	5%	5%	6%	Up 38%
Cigar smoking	8%	1%	11%	17%	Up 113% **
Bidis (flavored cigarettes)	5%	8%	8%	13%	Up 177% **

\* All tobacco use rates are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

\*\* Changes noted are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

## Tobacco Prevention and Control Program Prevention Efforts

- The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program is a comprehensive effort that partners with local health departments, schools, tribes and community-based organizations to ensure youth receive tobacco prevention information at school, at work, at home, and where they socialize. Efforts to prevent youth from taking up the tobacco habit include support for youth groups, educational programs in schools, concert sponsorships, and a cutting-edge multi-media ad campaign and Web site ([www.SeeThruTheSmoke.com](http://www.SeeThruTheSmoke.com)). The department also works with retailers to make it more difficult for youth to buy tobacco products.

## 2006 Healthy Youth Survey

- The 2006 Healthy Youth Survey was taken anonymously by almost 200,000 students statewide. It tracks health behaviors and attitudes such as tobacco among sixth, eighth, tenth and twelfth graders. The survey occurs every two years and is a collaborative effort of the Department of Health, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, and the Governor's Family Policy Council. For more information, visit [www.doh.wa.gov/NewsRoom/default.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/NewsRoom/default.htm)